

REMARKS

This paper is directed to the amendments identified above, and is further responsive in any manner indicated below.

PENDING CLAIMS

Original Claims 1-28 are presented within the copy of the application as filed in the present continuation, and Claims 2-28 have been cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer of any scope or subject matter.

Applicant respectfully informs the Office that a Supplemental Preliminary Amendment will be timely filed to submit additional claims for entry and consideration in the present case, in order to adjust a clarity and/or focus of Applicant's claimed invention. That is, the additional claims are unrelated to any prior art or scope adjustment, and are simply clarified claims in which Applicant is presently interested.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

It is respectfully submitted that any and all claim amendments and/or cancellations submitted throughout prosecution of the present application are without prejudice or disclaimer. That is, any above statements/amendments/cancellations (all made without prejudice or disclaimer), should not be taken as an indication or admission that any objection/rejection was valid, or as a disclaimer of any scope or subject matter. Applicant respectfully reserves all rights to file subsequent related application(s) (including reissue applications) directed to any/all previously claimed limitations/features which have been subsequently amended or cancelled, or to

any/all limitations/features not yet claimed, *i.e.*, Applicant continues (indefinitely) to maintain no intention or desire to dedicate or surrender any limitations/features of subject matter of the present application to the public.

CLAIMS FOR PRIORITY UNDER §§119 AND 120

The specification has been amended to identify all of the prior applications upon which domestic benefit is claimed in the present case under §120. Applicant respectfully requests written acknowledgment of the claim for priority under §120.

Further, Applicant also claims foreign priority of JP 07-179075 filed 14 July 1995, the certified copy of which was filed with prior Application No. 08/679,960, upon which domestic benefit under §120 is claimed in the present case. Applicant respectfully requests written acknowledgment of the claim for priority under §119.

IDENTIFICATION OF ASSIGNEE

HITACHI, LTD. is Assignee of entire right, title and interest in and to the present application by virtue of the Assignment filed in prior Application No. 08/679,960, upon which domestic benefit under §120 is claimed in the present case, and recorded 15 July 1996 at Reel 8145, Frames 0804 *et seq.*

EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the local D.C. area number 703-312-6600, to discuss an Examiner's Amendment or other suggested action for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

CONCLUSION

This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted concurrently with the present continuation, and is therefore timely and proper for entry.

No Petition/fee is possible, and no extension of time is required or possible, for entry of this Preliminary Amendment.

Please charge any valid/required fees due in connection with the filing of this case to ATS&K Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (referencing Case No. 501.34466CC3).

Respectfully submitted,



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